

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE

BOARD OF REGISTRATION
IN MEDICINE

FOR THE
YEARS ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1939, AND
NOVEMBER 30, 1940 (COMBINED)

DIVISION OF REGISTRATION

Mass. DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE AND REGISTRATION



DEC 19 1941

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

STATE HOUSE, November 30, 1940.

To MARGARET M. O'RIORDAN, *Director of Registration*:

MADAM: The Board of Registration in Medicine respectfully submits its combined annual report for the years ending November 30, 1939 and November 30, 1940.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1939

Expenditures

Salaries of members of Board	\$6,299.96	
General expenses of Board	1,234.90	
Traveling expenses of Board	527.09	
		\$8,061.95

Receipts

547 examination fees @ \$25	\$13,675.00	
323 interne fees @ \$5	1,615.00	
346 student fees @ \$1	346.00	
259 re-examination fees @ \$3	777.00	
Advance payment of re-examination fees	15.00	
Fees for certified statements	122.00	
Miscellaneous	1.20	
		\$16,551.20

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1940

Expenditures

Salaries of members of Board	\$6,300.00	
General expenses of Board	1,057.48	
Traveling expenses of Board	430.27	
		\$7,787.75

Receipts

693 examination fees @ \$25	\$17,325.00	
386 interne fees @ \$5	1,930.00	
300 student fees @ \$1	300.00	
251 re-examination fees @ \$3	753.00	
Advance payment of re-examination fee and interne fee	8.00	
Fees for certified statements	224.00	
		\$20,540.00

Financial Statement Verified

WALTER S. MORGAN, *Comptroller*.

Since the establishment of the Board in 1894, the fees received from applicants for registration, renewals and certified statements, and interest on deposits, and paid into the Treasury of the Commonwealth, amount to \$425,062.92. The expenditures of the Board amount to \$313,483.92. In dollars and cents, therefore, the Commonwealth has received \$111,579.00 in excess of the total amount expended.

*This does not include salaries for clerical assistants, which do not appear in the budget of the Board, but which appear in the budget of the Director of the Division of Registration.

The number of persons applying for registration during the fiscal year of 1939 is 761. The total number of persons registered during this year is 357. Of these, 83 have been registered by virtue of their National Board certification; 310 applicants were examined for the first time; 123 re-examination applicants filed new applications, and 15 applicants who were accepted did not appear for examination. Of those who had failed in previous examinations, 363 were re-examined. Registrations have been granted to 323 internes and to 346 students.

TABLE I

	Applicants	Examined	Registered	Rejected	Percentage rejected
March		193	80	113	58
July		230	76	154	66
November		255	118	137	53
		678	274	404	59

The number of persons applying for registration during the fiscal year of 1940 is 967. The total number of persons registered during this year is 445. Of these, 105 have been registered by virtue of their National Board certification; 425 applicants were examined for the first time; 108 re-examination applicants filed new applications, and 63 applicants who were accepted did not appear for examination. Of those who failed in previous examinations, 333 were re-examined. Registrations have been granted to 386 internes and to 300 students.

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A TABLE IA

Applicants	Examined	Registered	Rejected	Percentage rejected
February 19	1	1	0	0
March 14	234	149	85	36
March 13	1	1	0	0
April 30	1	1	0	0
May 2	1	1	0	0
June 27	1	1	0	0
July 11	224	101	123	54
July 10	1	1	0	0
November 14	293	84	209	71
November 12	1	1	0	0
	758	341	417	55

The following table shows the number of diplomates of the National Board of Medical Examiners, and the schools from which they were graduated, who were granted registration during 1940:

TABLE II

SCHOOL OF GRADUATION	Number Registered
Albany Medical College	1
Boston University School of Medicine	12
College of Medical Evangelists	2
Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons	1
Cornell University Medical College	2
Georgetown University	2
Harvard Medical School	28
McGill University	2
New York University	1
St. Louis University	1
Tufts College Medical School	35
University of Buffalo	1
University of Colorado	2
University of Kansas	1
University of Michigan	1
University of Minnesota	1
University of Pennsylvania	1
University of Prague	2
University of Vermont	3
University of Vienna	1
University of Virginia	2
Yale University	3

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TABLE III

The following tabulation is based upon the results of the examination of all applicants during the fiscal year 1940, divided into two groups,—those taking the examination for the first time, and those who failed in previous examination or examinations.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS	NUMBER EXAMINED: FIRST TIME			NUMBER EXAMINED: AFTER FIRST TIME			TOTALS			
	Passed	Rejected	Year of Grad.	Passed	Rejected	Year of Grad.	Passed	Rejected	Percent Rejected	Examined
Boston University School of Medicine	6						6	0	0	6
College of Physicians and Surgeons, Boston	2	1	1938	7	1	1927	9	28	75	37
		2	1940		1	1929				
					1	1932				
					3	1934				
					5	1936				
					4	1937				
					8	1938				
					2	1939				
Harvard Massachusetts College of Osteopathy	20						20	0	0	20
	1	1	1938	12	1	1930	13	35	72	48
		1	1939		3	1935				
		10	1940		3	1936				
					5	1937				
					1	1938				
					7	1939				
					3	1940				
Middlesex University	27	1	1934	44	1	1924	71	111	60	182
		1	1936		3	1925				
		2	1938		2	1928				
		11	1939		1	1932				
		15	1940		13	1933				
					1	1934				

TABLE III — *Continued*

MEDICAL SCHOOLS	NUMBER EXAMINED: FIRST TIME			NUMBER EXAMINED: AFTER FIRST TIME			TOTALS			
	Passed	Rejected	Year of Grad.	Passed	Rejected	Year of Grad.	Passed	Rejected	Percent Rejected	Examined
				6		1935				
				11		1936				
				19		1937				
				11		1938				
				12		1939				
				1		1940				
Tufts	12						12	0	0	12
Chicago College of Osteopathy	1			2		1939	1	4	80	5
				2		1940				
Chicago Medical School	5	1	1939				5	1	16	6
College of Medical Evangelists				1			1	0	0	1
Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons	4						4	0	0	4
Cornell University Medical College	1						1	0	0	1
Des Moines Still College of Osteopathy		1	1937	1		1939	0	3	100	3
		1	1939							
Emory University	1						1	0	0	1
Georgetown University	3			1			4	0	0	4
Hahnemann Medical College	1	1	1938	1		1938	1	5	83	6
		1	1939	1		1939				
		1	1940							
Jefferson Medical College	5						5	0	0	5
Johns Hopkins University	6						6	0	0	6
Kansas City University of Physicians and Surgeons	1	1	1920	4	2	1927	5	52	81	57
		1	1937		1	1929				
		1	1938		5	1932				
		4	1939		5	1933				
		3	1940		4	1935				
					3	1936				
					10	1937				
					7	1938				
					3	1939				
					2	1940				
Kirksville College of Oste- opathy and Surgery	1	1	1931	6	5	1934	7	16	69	23
		1	1939		1	1936				
		2	1940		1	1938				
					3	1939				
					2	1940				
Loyola University	1	1	1940		1	1940	1	2	66	3
Mid-West Medical College		1	1934	5	9	1934	5	18	78	23
		1	1937							
		1	1938	5		1938				
		1	1939							
Missouri College of Medicine and Science				3		1927	0	3	100	3
New York Homeopathic Medical College	1						1	0	0	1
New York University	2						2	0	0	2
Philadelphia College of Oste- opathy		1	1937	5	2	1939	5	5	50	10
		1	1939							
		1	1940							
St. Louis University	3			1		1924	3	1	25	4
University of Arkansas	1						1	0	0	1
University of Baylor				1			1	0	0	1
University of California	1						1	0	0	1
University of Cincinnati	1						1	0	0	1
University of Illinois	1						1	0	0	1
University of Indiana	1						1	0	0	1
University of Iowa	1						1	0	0	1
University of Kansas	1						1	0	0	1
University of Maryland				1		1936	0	1	100	1
University of Michigan	3						3	0	0	3
University of Minnesota	1						1	0	0	1
University of Nebraska	1						1	0	0	1
University of Ohio		1	1927				0	1	100	1
University of Pennsylvania	1						1	0	0	1
University of Rochester	1						1	0	0	1
University of Tennessee				1			1	0	0	1
University of Texas	1						1	0	0	1
University of Tulane	1						1	0	0	1
University of Vermont	1	1	1939				1	1	50	2
University of Virginia	1			1		1930	1	1	50	2
University of Washington	4						4	0	0	4
University of Wisconsin	1						1	0	0	1
Western Reserve University	1						1	0	0	1
Yale University							1	0	0	1

TABLE IV
FOREIGN MEDICAL SCHOOLS

MEDICAL SCHOOLS	NUMBER EXAMINED: FIRST TIME			NUMBER EXAMINED: AFTER FIRST TIME			TOTALS			
	Passed	Rejected	Year of Grad.	Passed	Rejected	Year of Grad.	Passed	Rejected	Percent Rejected	Examined
Royal College of Edinburgh . . .				1			1	0	0	1
University of Albert . . .	1						1	0	0	1
University of Basle . . .				2	1939		0	2	100	2
University of Belgium . . .	1						1	0	0	1
University of Berlin . . .	5	1	1903	1	1925		5	10	66	15
		1	1909							
		1	1911							
		1	1914							
		3	1920							
		1	1922							
		1	1930							
University of Berne . . .	2						2	0	0	2
University of Bologna . . .	2	1	1936	1			3	1	25	4
University of Bonn . . .	2	1	1920				2	2	50	4
		1	1935							
University of Breslau . . .	7	1	1927				7	2	22	9
		1	1933							
University of Cologne . . .	1						1	0	0	1
University of Elizabeth . . .	1	1	1915	3			4	3	42	7
		1	1918							
		1	1925							
University of Estonia . . .				2	1938		0	2	100	2
University of Frankfort . . .	4	1	1925				4	1	20	5
University of Freiburg . . .	1	1	1902				1	6	85	7
		1	1906							
		1	1910							
		1	1913							
		1	1923							
		1	1924							
University of Geneva . . .		1	1913				0	3	100	3
		1	1937							
		1	1938							
University of Giessen . . .	1						1	0	0	1
University of Graz . . .		2	1922				0	2	100	2
University of Greifswald . . .		1	1912				0	1	100	1
University of Gronigen . . .	1						1	0	0	1
University of Guy . . .	1						1	0	0	1
University of Halle . . .	1	1	1920	1	1920		1	2	66	3
University of Hamburg . . .		1	1923	2	1929		0	4	100	4
		1	1924							
University of Heidelberg . . .	6	1	1904				6	4	40	10
		1	1913							
		1	1920							
		1	1921							
University of Kharkoff . . .	1						1	0	0	1
University of Konigsburg . . .	1	1	1914	1	1	1925	2	3	60	5
		1	1925							
University of Lausanne . . .	1	1	1940	1	1	1940	2	2	50	4
University of Leipzig . . .	1	1	1922				1	1	50	2
University of Lwow . . .	1						1	0	0	1
University of Marburg . . .		1	1919				0	2	100	2
		1	1923							
McGill University . . .	5						5	0	0	5
University of Milano . . .	4						4	0	0	4
University of Modena . . .		1	1924	1	1924		0	2	100	2
University of Montreal . . .	1	1	1937				1	1	50	2
University of Munich . . .	8	1	1910	1	1925		8	6	42	14
		1	1915							
		1	1918							
		1	1923							
		1	1924							
University of Naples . . .		1	1932	1	3	1934	1	7	87	8
		1	1935							
		1	1936							
		1	1938							
University of Padua . . .		1	1927				0	1	100	1
University of Paris . . .				1			1	0	0	1
University of Pavia . . .		1	1937		1	1937	0	2	100	2
University of Pazmany . . .		1	1930		1	1930	0	2	100	2
University of Pisa . . .		1	1938				0	1	100	1
University of Prague . . .	5	1	1914	2			7	5	41	12
		1	1924							
		1	1925							
		1	1927							
		1	1931							

TABLE IV — *Continued*

MEDICAL SCHOOLS	NUMBER EXAMINED: FIRST TIME			NUMBER EXAMINED: AFTER FIRST TIME			TOTALS			
	Passed	Rejected	Year of Grad.	Passed	Rejected	Year of Grad.	Passed	Rejected	Percent Rejected	Examined
University of Rome . . .		1	1936				0	1	100	1
University of Rostock . . .		1	1924				0	1	100	1
University of Strasburg . . .	1						1	0	0	1
University of Torino . . .		1	1932				0	1	100	1
University of Toronto . . .	1						1	0	0	1
University of Tübingen . . .	1	1	1922				1	1	50	2
University of Vienna . . .	38	1	1901	2	1	1919	41	41	50	82
		1	1906		1	1920				
		1	1916		1	1931				
		4	1920		1	1932				
		3	1921		1	1934				
		2	1922		1	1935				
		4	1923							
		3	1924							
		2	1925							
		1	1926							
		1	1927							
		3	1928							
		1	1929							
		2	1931							
		1	1932							
		1	1933							
		1	1934							
		1	1935							
		1	1937							
		1	1940							
University of Vinnitza . . .		1	1937				0	1	100	1
University of Warsaw . . .		1	1926	1		1926	0	2	100	2
University of Würzburg . . .		1	1920				0	1	100	1
University of Zürich . . .	1	1	1918				1	1	50	2

TABLE V

The following tabulation shows the results of re-examinations for fiscal year 1940 and the institutions from which the candidates graduated.

SCHOOL	Number of rejected Applicants	Year of grad- uation	Number of times examined	Result of Examination
College of Physicians and Surgeons, Boston	1	1929	19	Not registered
	1	1932	8	Not registered
	1	1934	13	Not registered
	1	1934	8	Reg. 8th exam.
	1	1936	12	Not registered
	1	1936	9	Reg. 9th exam.
	1	1937	9	Not registered
	1	1937	6	Reg. 6th exam.
	1	1937	4	Not registered
	1	1937	3	Not registered
	1	1938	8	Not registered
	1	1938	4	Not registered
	1	1938	3	Reg. 3rd exam.
	1	1938	3	Not registered
	3	1939	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	2	1939	2	Not registered
Massachusetts College of Osteopathy	1	1930	8	Not registered
	1	1933	13	Not registered
	1	1935	8	Not registered
	1	1936	7	Reg. 7th exam.
	1	1936	6	Not registered
	1	1936	2	Not registered
	1	1937	8	Not registered
	1	1937	6	Reg. 6th exam.
	1	1937	3	Not registered
	1	1938	2	Not registered
	1	1939	5	Reg. 5th exam.
	2	1939	3	Reg. 3rd exam.
	2	1939	3	Not registered
	4	1939	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	2	1939	2	Not registered
	2	1940	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	3	1940	2	Not registered

TABLE V — *Continued*

SCHOOL	Number of rejected Applicants	Year of grad- uation	Number of times examined	Result of Examination
Middlesex University	1	1924	7	Reg. 7th exam.
	1	1925	24	Not registered
	1	1928	10	Reg. 10th exam.
	1	1929	26	Reg. 26th exam.
	1	1932	15	Not registered
	1	1933	22	Not registered
	1	1933	16	Not registered
	1	1933	13	Not registered
	2	1933	12	Not registered
	1	1933	9	Reg. 9th exam.
	1	1933	9	Not registered
	1	1934	8	Not registered
	1	1934	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	1	1935	16	Not registered
	2	1935	11	Not registered
	1	1935	6	Reg. 6th exam.
	1	1936	12	Reg. 12th exam.
	3	1936	9	Reg. 9th exam.
	2	1936	8	Reg. 8th exam.
	1	1936	7	Reg. 7th exam.
	1	1936	7	Not registered
	1	1936	5	Reg. 5th exam.
	1	1936	5	Not registered
	1	1936	4	Reg. 4th exam.
	1	1936	4	Not registered
	1	1936	2	Not registered
	1	1937	9	Not registered
	1	1937	8	Not registered
	1	1937	7	Reg. 7th exam.
	1	1937	7	Not registered
	1	1937	6	Reg. 6th exam.
	5	1937	5	Reg. 5th exam.
	1	1937	5	Not registered
	1	1937	4	Reg. 4th exam.
	1	1937	4	Not registered
	2	1937	3	Reg. 3rd exam.
	2	1937	3	Not registered
	2	1938	6	Reg. 6th exam.
	1	1938	5	Reg. 5th exam.
	1	1938	5	Not registered
	1	1938	4	Reg. 4th exam.
	3	1938	3	Reg. 3rd exam.
	2	1938	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	3	1938	2	Not registered
	2	1939	3	Reg. 3rd exam.
	4	1939	3	Not registered
	6	1939	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	5	1939	2	Not registered
	2	1940	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	1	1940	2	Not registered
Chicago College of Osteopathy	1	1939	3	Not registered
College of Medical Evangelists	1	1937	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
Des Moines Still College of Osteopathy	1	1939	2	Not registered
Georgetown University	1	1935	3	Reg. 3rd exam.
Hahnemann Medical College	1	1938	2	Not registered
Kansas City University of Physicians and Surgeons	1	1939	2	Not registered
	1	1927	15	Not registered
	1	1929	20	Reg. 20th exam.
	1	1932	19	Not registered
	1	1932	8	Not registered
	1	1933	22	Not registered
	1	1933	15	Not registered*
	1	1935	7	Not registered
	1	1935	5	Not registered
	1	1936	11	Reg. 11th exam.
	1	1936	11	Not registered
	1	1937	11	Not registered
	2	1937	10	Not registered
	1	1937	4	Reg. 4th exam.
	1	1937	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	1	1937	2	Not registered
	1	1938	8	Reg. 8th exam.
	1	1938	6	Reg. 6th exam.
	2	1938	3	Reg. 3rd exam.
	1	1938	3	Not registered
	1	1938	2	Not registered
	1	1939	5	Not registered
	2	1940	2	Not registered

*Includes two previous examinations as graduate of St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1920

TABLE V—Continued

SCHOOL	Number of rejected Applicants	Year of grad- uation	Number of times examined	Result of Examination
Kirkville College of Osteopathy and Surgery	1	1931	3	Not registered
	1	1934	11	Reg. 11th exam.
	1	1934	7	Not registered
	1	1934	6	Not registered
	1	1936	7	Reg. 7th exam.
	1	1936	5	Reg. 5th exam.
	1	1936	4	Not registered
	1	1938	4	Reg. 4th exam.
	1	1939	5	Not registered
	1	1939	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	1	1940	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	2	1940	2	Not registered
	1	1940	2	Not registered
Loyola University	1	1934	19	Not registered
Mid-West Medical College	2	1934	12	Reg. 12th exam.
	1	1934	10	Not registered
	1	1934	7	Not registered
	2	1934	5	Not registered
	1	1934	3	Reg. 3rd exam.
	1	1937	6	Reg. 6th exam.
	1	1938	6	Not registered
	1	1938	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	1	1927	7	Not registered
	1	1935	11	Reg. 11th exam.
Missouri College of Medicine and Science	1	1937	4	Reg. 4th exam.
	1	1939	4	Reg. 4th exam.
	1	1939	4	Not registered
	1	1939	3	Reg. 3rd exam.
	1	1940	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
Philadelphia College of Osteopathy	1	1924	7	Not registered
	1	1934	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	1	1936	2	Not registered
	1	1939	4	Reg. 4th exam.**
St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons	1	1924	7	Not registered
University of Baylor	1	1934	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
University of Maryland	1	1936	2	Not registered
University of Tennessee	1	1939	4	Reg. 4th exam.**

TABLE VI

FOREIGN MEDICAL SCHOOLS

Royal College of Edinburgh	1	1936	8	Reg. 8th exam.
University of Basle	1	1939	2	Not registered
University of Berlin	1	1925	2	Not registered
University of Bologna	1	1936	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
University of Elizabeth	1	1918	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	1	1924	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	1	1925	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
University of Estonia	1	1938	4	Not registered
University of Halle	1	1920	2	Not registered
University of Hamburg	1	1929	3	Not registered
University of Konigsberg	1	1925	2	Not registered
	1	1926	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
University of Lausanne	1	1934	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	1	1940	2	Not registered
University of Modena	1	1924	2	Not registered
University of Munich	1	1924	2	Not registered
University of Naples	1	1934	8	Not registered
	1	1928	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
University of Paris	1	1936	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
University of Pavia	1	1937	2	Not registered
University of Pazmany	1	1930	2	Not registered
University of Prague	1	1928	3	Reg. 3rd exam.
	1	1939	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
University of Vienna	1	1919	2	Not registered
	1	1920	2	Not registered
	1	1922	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	1	1923	2	Reg. 2nd exam.
	1	1931	2	Not registered
	1	1932	2	Not registered
	1	1934	2	Not registered
	1	1935	2	Not registered
University of Warsaw	1	1926	2	Reg. 2nd exam.

** Includes three previous examinations as graduate of Kansas City University of Physicians and Surgeons, 1932

Includes one previous examination as a graduate of Kansas City University of Physicians and Surgeons, 1932

FOREIGN MEDICAL SCHOOLS

The number of graduates of foreign medical schools taking the examination before the Board has increased rapidly in the past year. The figures for the past five years are as follows: 1936, fifty; 1937, thirty-four; 1938, forty-eight; 1939, seventy-nine; 1940, two hundred and fifty.

The number of states accepting graduates of foreign medical schools has diminished rapidly in recent years until it is now reported that practically only New York and Massachusetts will accept them. While some states will not accept them at all, other states accept them only under conditions very difficult if not impossible for the applicants to meet.

MEDICINE IN MASSACHUSETTS

In accordance with Chapter 415, Acts of 1939, approved on August 3 of that year, no alien applicant for registration has been admitted to examination since the effective date of that act, November 3, 1939, who has not presented his declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States (so-called "first papers.")

Under a second provision of the Act, that every alien registered as a qualified physician should on or before November 3, 1940 present his declaration of intention to the Board or have his license revoked, no action has been taken. To enforce this act, except in the case of a specific complaint, would require considerable clerical work in checking and cross-checking records and in correspondence which cannot be undertaken with the present clerical assistance in the office, and for which no additional assistance has been provided.

Another need for clerical assistance which may become great in the next fiscal year has to do with the work of the Approving Authority. The effective date is set by statute at January 1, 1941 following which additional clerical help will be needed.

General complaints concerning the neglect by registered physicians to present their certificates of registration to the Town Clerk for recording, continue to be made. A preliminary summary carried on by N. Y. A. workers indicated that more than a thousand physicians have failed to comply with the law in this respect, but no provision has been made for clerical assistance to complete the checking or for the necessary postage and stationery. Modification of the present statute will be discussed later in this report under "Recommendations for Legislation."

A very serious situation has developed in connection with the examinations by the Board because of restrictions made by the budget. It is necessary to have a certain number of proctors for the proper supervision of the examinations. Appropriation for adequate proctoring of the examinations has been refused and the question may well be raised as to the propriety of conducting examinations if they cannot be properly supervised. Grave scandal may arise in this connection.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION.

1. *On Restricting the Practice of Surgery.*

One of the matters which has given the Board grave concern is the practice of surgery by persons who are not really qualified therefor. The great advances in the hospital care of patients in the past fifty years, including not only technic in the operating room but anesthesia, post operative care and nursing, have diminished vastly the risk to the patient of merely exploratory operative procedures. Thus almost any body cavity may be opened, and normal tissue removed without remarkable danger to the patient. But the contribution made by the individual surgeon in the matter of judgment as to when to operate, what to do or what not to do, when to go on or when to withdraw is to only a relatively slight degree affected by the variations in the external conditions found in hospitals where much of the first class surgery is done. These external conditions are standardized in accordance with the best information available, and incompetent surgeons can perform many operations without a startlingly high mortality. It is when the question is asked: Was the operation necessary or justifiable, that one finds some shocking cases, and if one is able to make a close scrutiny, one finds that patients lose their lives because of the incompetence of the surgeon. How great this evil is, no one knows, but it is suspected to be of considerable magnitude.

It is on this account that the Board recommends that steps be taken to study the situation and pursuant therewith introduces a Resolve.

*Recording of Certificates of Registration of Qualified
Physicians by Town Clerk*

It is well known that a considerable number of physicians have not complied with the requirement of Chapter 112, Section 8, that before entering upon the practice of medicine they present to the clerk of the town where they are going to open an office, their certificate of registration, for recording by him. The statute requires the town clerk to forward to the Board in Registration in Medicine a copy of his recordings. The purpose of the statute was to provide the Board with the addresses of all physicians practicing in the Commonwealth. As it has worked out, the statute has failed to furnish such addresses, and although general complaint has been made on a number of occasions that the Board is failing in its duty, there is nothing in the statute which places the enforcement of this law with the Board. Furthermore, appropriation for clerical assistance to enable the Board to investigate and refer the matter to the proper law enforcing agencies has been refused. In order that physicians may be more generally persuaded to comply with the statute, the attachment of an additional penalty is recommended and Section 8 of Chapter 112 of the General Laws (Tercentenary Edition) is amended by appropriate Bill.

*Annual Licensing of Physicians and Publication
of the List of Such Physician*

The reasons for annual registration of physicians are no less cogent this year than in times past, and in one respect the argument is more compelling. If, in behalf of the national defense, the Board were asked for its list of registered qualified physicians, such list, required by the statute to be made and kept, would be made available, but the following supplementary statements would have to be made also.

(a) The Board does not know how many of the physicians on the list are dead.

(b) The Board does not know how many of the physicians on the list have left Massachusetts.

(c) The Board does not know the present addresses of the physicians on the list. The address given on application for examination is rarely the address at which the physician opens an office, and even if the town clerk has reported the address at the time of presentation of the certificate, no additional report is made unless the physician opens an office in another town.

It is clear that the present statutory provisions do not make possible an accurate, complete and up-to-date register of physicians qualified to practice, with proper notation as to where they are practicing. It is everywhere recognized that the state should keep a register of all physicians licensed, but of what use is the register if it is inaccurate, incomplete and antiquated?

If the Board has a satisfactory register it should of course, be open to public inspection as it is now through the office of the Secretary of State. But the states in which annual registration has been adopted have found that the value of an accurate register is greatly enhanced if the list of physicians and their addresses is printed and distributed widely. Such published list has a distinct educational value and the states which have annual registration and publication of the list of qualified physicians report that it has been of great assistance in detecting and eliminating unlicensed practitioners.

The objections which have been made in the past were almost entirely by members of the medical profession, by no means unanimous, and have been, with one exception, fantastic or irrelevant. The only pertinent objection which has been made, is that in the opinion of some physicians, this cost of exercising police power of the state, should not be met by a tax on physicians, and it is the principle rather than the amount of the tax to which some physicians have said they object. On the other hand, this principle, if it is a principle, has been and still is violated in practical procedure notably in the Federal narcotic stamp tax.

It is the opinion of the Board that great practical advantage will accrue to the public and also to the medical profession through annual registration of physicians and the publication of the list of such physicians, and the Board therefore submits a bill.

The Board has been in actual session fourteen days; has conducted fifteen hearings; revoked four certificates of registration; suspended two, cancelled three and restored five. Two hearings were continued; all of which were taken up and disposed of at later meetings, and three letters of censure were sent. Three cases were placed on file and four on probation. Eight petitions for restoration of certificates of registration were taken up four of which were granted. The time given by the individual members of the Board in rating examination books is not included in the fourteen days devoted to Board Meetings.

By vote of the Board, the Chairman and Secretary have been empowered to hold conference in certain instances with physicians relative to whom complaints have been made in order to ascertain if Board hearings are necessary. In this manner, the time of the members has been saved and financial economy for the States has been effected.

Dr. Domizio A. Costa and Dr. Frank M. Vaughan were respectively appointed to the Board, on December 16, 1938 and on August 25, 1939.

On August 13, 1940 Dr. Edward A. Knowlton was re-appointed to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS R. MAHONY, M.D., *Chairman*
STEPHEN RUSHMORE, M.D., *Secretary*
DOMIZIO A. COSTA, M.D.
EDWARD A. KNOWLTON, M.D.
HARRY L. STEVENS, M.D.
FRANK M. VAUGHAN, D.O.
ROYAL P. WATKINS, M.D.

